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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, N.W., Suite 222  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: *Corrected Pages To Copies of Comments Filed by the Personal Communications Industry Association, CC Docket No. 98-146***

Dear Ms. Salas:

The Personal Communications Industry Association ("PCIA") hereby submits the attached corrected pages to the copies of its comments filed yesterday in CC Docket No. 98-146, *Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*. After PCIA's comments had been filed, it was discovered that pages 2 and 3 of the document had copied incorrectly. These pages are correct in the original version of the comments filed. Accordingly, I am attaching four sets of replacement pages to be inserted in the four copies filed with the Commission.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (703) 739-0300, extension 3150.

Very truly yours,

*Cynthia S. Thomas* / *ck*  
Cynthia S. Thomas  
Director, Regulatory Affairs

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telecommunications services by all service providers, as directed by Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.<sup>3</sup>

Through the submission of these comments, PCIA responds to the Commission's request for information concerning the ability and incentives of wireless carriers to deploy advanced telecommunications capability. In addition, PCIA addresses the Commission's request for comment concerning the existence of regulatory barriers that impede greater use of wireless spectrum for advanced services.

As outlined below, wireless technologies play a critical role in ensuring that the advanced telecommunications needs of the American public are capable of being satisfied anytime, anywhere. In recent years, Americans have become increasingly mobile, and their demand for constant access to communications services and information has spiraled. Given this trend and in view of Congress's mandate under Section 706, it is crucial that the Commission recognize and promote the unique capacity of wireless technologies and services to provide consumers and business users seamless and universal advanced telecommunications capability.

## **I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY**

Section 706 directs the Commission and state commissions with jurisdiction over telecommunications services to foster "the deployment on a reasonable and timely basis of advanced telecommunications capability to all Americans . . . ."<sup>4</sup> The statute lists "price cap

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<sup>3</sup> See Pub.L. 104-104, title VII, § 706, Feb. 8, 1996, 110 Stat. 153, reproduced in the notes under 47 U.S.C. § 157. See also *Deployment of Wireline Services Offering Advanced Telecommunications Capability*, FCC 98-188 (rel. Aug. 7, 1998) (Notice of Proposed Rulemaking) (combining dockets: CC Docket Nos. 98-147, 98-11, 98-26, 98-32, 98-78, and CCB/CPO No. 98-15, RM 9244).

<sup>4</sup> 47 U.S.C. § 157 note.

regulation, regulatory forbearance, measures that promote competition in the local telecommunications market, or other regulating methods that remove barriers to infrastructure investment” as means for accomplishing this goal.<sup>5</sup> Section 706 mandates that, within 30 months after the date of enactment of the 1996 Act, the Commission initiate a notice of inquiry exploring the availability of advanced telecommunications capability to all Americans, including elementary and secondary schools and classrooms. If the Commission finds that advanced telecommunications capability is not being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion, the agency must “take immediate action to accelerate deployment of such capability by removing barriers to infrastructure investment and by promoting competition in the telecommunications market.”<sup>6</sup>

The Commission adopted the instant *NOI* to initiate its inquiry under Section 706. In the *NOI*, the Commission seeks comment on a broad range of questions designed to permit an assessment of the extent to which the mandate of Section 706 is being met. To this end, the *NOI* asks commenters to discuss: (1) which facilities and services fall within the definition of “advanced telecommunications capability;” (2) the extent to which various industry segments currently offer or have plans in the future to provide advanced telecommunications capability; (3) the demand for advanced telecommunications capability and services; and (4) how the Commission should apply the techniques identified by Congress – or other methods – to aid the deployment of advanced telecommunications capability.

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<sup>5</sup> *Id.*

<sup>6</sup> *Id.*